



**Rat Neurons-cortical  
(RN-c)**  
Catalog #R1520

**Cell Specification**

The tissue of the central nervous system is made up of two classes of cells that may be broadly categorized as neurons and glia. Neurons are anatomic, functional, and trophic units of the brain [1]. Despite great variability in size and shape, all neurons share common morphological features, the key elements of a highly complex communication network. Neurons are dynamically polarized cells that serve as the major signaling unit of the nervous system. The human brain contains about  $1 \times 10^{11}$  neurons, each being able to contact at least 10,000 other neurons [2].

RN-c from ScienCell Research Laboratories are isolated from embryonic day 18 rat cerebrum. RN-c are cryopreserved as primary cultures and delivered frozen. Each vial contains  $>1 \times 10^6$  cells in 1 ml volume. RN-c are characterized by immunofluorescence with antibodies specific to neurofilament, MAP2, and  $\beta$ -tubulin III. RN-c are negative for mycoplasma, bacteria, yeast, and fungi. RN-c are guaranteed to further culture under the conditions provided by ScienCell Research Laboratories; however, *RN-c are not recommended for expanding or long-term cultures since the cells do not proliferate in culture.*

**Recommended Medium**

It is recommended to use neuronal medium (NM, Cat. #1521) for culturing RN-c *in vitro*.

**Product Use**

RN-c are for research use only. They are not approved for human or animal use, or for application in *in vitro* diagnostic procedures.

**Storage**

Upon receiving, directly and immediately transfer the cells from dry ice to liquid nitrogen and keep the cells in liquid nitrogen until they are needed for experiments.

**Shipping**

Dry ice.

**References**

- [1] Parent A. (1996) "Neurons." In *Carpenter's Human Neuroanatomy* (9th ed., pp131-198). Quebec: Williams & Wilkins.
- [2] Alberts B, Bray D, Lewis J, Raff M, Roberts M, Watson JD. (1989) *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (2nd ed.). New York: Garland.

## Instructions for culturing cells

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**Caution:** Cryopreserved cells are very delicate. Thaw the vial in a 37°C water bath and return the cells to culture as quickly as possible with minimal handling!

### Initiating the culture:

1. Prepare a poly-L-lysine-coated culture vessel (2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ ). It is recommended to use a T-25 flask (alternatively, 3 wells of a 6-well plate or 12 wells of a 24-well plate can be used). Add 5 ml of sterile water to a T-25 flask and then add 5  $\mu\text{l}$  of poly-L-lysine stock solution (10 mg/ml, Cat. #0413). Leave the vessel in a 37°C incubator overnight (or for a minimum of one hour). Rinse the poly-L-lysine-coated vessel twice with sterile water prior to use.

*Note: It is important that these cells are plated in poly-L-lysine-coated culture vessels to promote cell attachment.*

2. Prepare complete medium. Decontaminate the external surfaces of medium bottle and medium supplement tubes with 70% ethanol and transfer them to a sterile field. Aseptically transfer supplement to the basal medium with a pipette. Rinse the supplement tube with medium to recover the entire volume.
3. Add complete medium to the culture vessel. Leave the vessel in the sterile field and proceed to thaw the cryopreserved cells.
4. Place the frozen vial in a 37°C water bath. Hold and rotate the vial gently until the contents completely thaw. Promptly remove the vial from the water bath, wipe it down with 70% ethanol, and transfer it to the sterile field. Carefully remove the cap without touching the interior threads.
5. Gently resuspend and dispense the contents of the vial into the poly-L-lysine-coated culture vessel. A seeding density of 10,000-50,000 cells/ $\text{cm}^2$  is recommended, with an optimal range of 20,000-25,000 cells/ $\text{cm}^2$ .

*Note: Dilution and centrifugation of cells after thawing are not recommended since these actions are more harmful to the cells than the effect of residual DMSO in the culture.*

6. Replace the cap or lid of the culture vessel and gently rock the vessel to distribute the cells evenly. Loosen cap, if necessary, to allow gas exchange.
7. Return the culture vessel to the incubator.
8. For best results, do not disturb the culture for at least 16 hours after the culture has been initiated. Refresh culture medium the next day to remove residual DMSO and unattached cells, then every other day thereafter.

### Maintaining the culture:

1. Refresh supplemented culture medium the next morning after establishing a culture from cryopreserved cells.
2. Change the medium every two to three days thereafter.

***It is not recommended that neurons be subcultured beyond their initial plating.***

*Caution: Handling animal-derived products is potentially biohazardous. Always wear gloves and safety glasses when working with these materials. Never mouth pipette. We recommend following the universal procedures for handling products of human origin as the minimum precaution against contamination [1].*

[1] Grizzle WE, Polt S. (1988) "Guidelines to avoid personal contamination by infective agents in research laboratories that use human tissues." *J Tissue Cult Methods*. 11: 191-9.